

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1018

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting South Dakota's Congressional delegation and the United States Congress to support federal multi-emission reduction legislation.

WHEREAS, the federal government, state and local governments, communities, and electric power providers have a common interest in assuring compliance with our nation's air quality goals; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota is one of only eleven states to meet all of the federal government's ambient air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone Power Plant near Big Stone City, South Dakota, is helping to maintain South Dakota's clean air by working with the United States Department of Energy to install and operate an advanced hybrid particulate collector that collects 99.99 percent of the particulate emitted by its coal-fired boiler; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Legislature is desirous of developing the state's natural resources in an environmentally responsible manner for the benefit of all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, electric power providers have significantly reduced air emissions, but additional reductions are needed to help address these air quality goals; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act provides for continued reductions in emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury from electric power facilities with numerous regulatory decisions mandated over the next two decades that will have unpredictable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Clean Air Act's multiple, overlapping requirements could be streamlined to facilitate greater, more efficient, and more certain emission reductions that would reduce litigation that often causes significant delays in achieving air quality goals; and

WHEREAS, an opportunity (in the form of the Clear Skies Initiative) exists to adopt a federal, integrated strategy that establishes aggressive, but reasonable, timeframes and reduction targets for the nation's three highest-priority electric power plant emissions – sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury; and

WHEREAS, such a multi-emission strategy will minimize interstate regulatory compliance conflicts, lessen the need for costly, time-consuming litigation, allow for the design and deployment

of more cost-effective technologies, and continue the nation's progress for reducing potentially harmful emissions in as cost-effective manner as possible without negatively impacting the reliability of the nation's electric power supplies:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eightieth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature calls upon South Dakota's Congressional delegation and the United States Congress to pass multi-emission legislation in 2005 that significantly reduces emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury from electric power generators and helps the nation toward attainment of federal air quality standards without exacerbating imbalances in the natural gas market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final multi-emission reduction program should maintain and encourage a diverse fuel supply that will benefit states and local communities, consumers, and manufacturers, as well as maintain and promote electric power reliability, availability, and affordability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that reductions under such a program should be achieved using an emissions cap-and-trade approach patterned after the successful Clean Air Act acid rain program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ongoing development of combined heat and power units be encouraged by exempting energy efficient and low-emitting units from multi-emission legislation and allowing them to opt into the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a program should streamline Clean Air Act provisions given that sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury emissions caps will substantially reduce the amount of emissions from electric power facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a program should require strict enforcement by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and strict fines for violations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature supports the Clear Skies Initiative if the final version does not contain carbon dioxide emission regulations or standards, and that the goal of carbon dioxide emission reductions instead be supported through research and encouraged on a voluntary basis.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

March 01, 2005
March 03, 2005

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate